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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Toshiki KINDO et al.
Serial No. : 09/989,151 Group Art Unit: 2185 2171
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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, the Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-132559 to Hitachi LTD, published May 12, 2000. An English language abstract of the same is provided; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No.09-288683 to Matsushita Electric IND CO LTD, published April 11, 1997. The relevance of this document is noted on page 10 of the application. An English language abstract of the same is provided.

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A copy of the above-noted documents are attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshiki KINDO et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

January 17, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191